

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 01234 201139Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /099 W

-----060312 201346Z /53

R 201057Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6865

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1234

DEPARTMENT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, OROG, SU, OAU

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF SUDANESE LEADERS

1. SEVERAL SENIOR SUDANGOV OFFICIALS WILL BE TRAVELLING SOON ON MAJOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ABUL GASSIM WILL TRAVEL TO LIBYA MARCH 21 TO PRESIDE AT SEBHA CONFERENCE REGARDING CHAD PROBLEM. ACCORDING FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL SEBHA CONFERENCE WILL REVIEW PROGRESS TOWARDS CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN CHADGOV AND REBELS AND INTERNAL RECONCILIATION PROCESS IN CHAD. CHAD, NIGER AND LIBYAN DELEGATIONS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE, BUT IT NOT REPEAT NOT CLEAR WHETHER CHAD REBEL REPRESENTATIVES WILL ATTEND.

2. FOLLOWING SEBHA CONFERENCE, PROBABLY AROUND END OF MONTH, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 01234 201139Z

ABUL GASSIM EXPECTED TO VISIT ADDIS ABABA. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY SENIOR EPMG OFFICIAL WAS RECENTLY IN KHARTOUM TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT WHICH WILL BE PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH BILATERAL ISSUES INCLUDING ERITREA. IN THAT CONNECTION WE WONDER WHETHER EPMG WILL BE IN FRIENDLY MOOD FOLLOWING RECENT ELF-EPLF MEETING HERE (SEPTEL).

3. IN ADDITION TO ABUL GASSIM'S TRAVELS, NIMEIRI IS DISPATCHING THREE SENIOR OFFICIALS TO SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES. MINSTATE FONAFFAIRS FRANCIS DENG WILL TRAVEL TO EAST AFRICA. MINSTATE EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS IZZ EL DIN HAMID WILL VISIT NORTH AND WEST AFRICA CAPITALS. LAWRENCE WOL, IMPORTANT SOUTHERN OFFICIAL WHO IS ALSO MEMBER SSU EXECUTIVE BUREAU, WILL TRAVEL TO CENTRAL AFRICA. EACH WILL BE CARRYING MESSAGES FROM NIMEIRI TO SELECTED AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE. WE UNDERSTAND MESSAGES WILL PROVIDE BACKGROUND TO SUDAN'S RECENT ATTEMPTS IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA AS WELL AS ITS ROLE IN CHAD SITUATION. VISITS TO AFRICAN CAPITALS WILL ALSO PROVIDE OCCASION FOR NIMEIRI'S ENVOYS TO DISCUSS NEXT JULY'S OAU SUMMIT WHICH WILL BE HELD IN KHARTOUM.

4. COMMENT: VISITS BY SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS WILL ALLOW NIMEIRI TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS PRIOR TO KHARTOUM SUMMIT, AND THEREBY, HOPEFULLY, TO ASSURE THAT IN TERMS OF HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AND SUBSTANTIVELY IT SUCCEEDS.

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